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## **Garcia phone collects record 355 phones**

**Lansing** – Sen. Valde Garcia (R-Howell) and area businesses collected 355 phones for domestic violence victims, setting a new record for his annual holiday cellular phone drive. Last year's drive collected nearly 250 phones.

"This year's drive surpassed all our expectations," Garcia said. "I am so grateful to everyone who helped make it such a success."

The phones collected during the drive will be sent to Donate A Phone, a division of the Wireless Foundation, where they will be re-programmed so that they can only be used to contact emergency officials in times of trouble.

Garcia explained that the phones offer immediate assistance. Victims do not have to run from their attacker and then find a phone to call the authorities.

Special thanks go out to businesses that collected donations for this year's drive, including:

- Big K Mart, Corunna
- Big K Mart, Brighton
- Duke's Communications, Howell
- Auto One/Hometown Wireless, Brighton
- Ace Hardware, Mason

"I'm looking forward to next year's collection," Garcia added. "I think our goal of 400 phones should be well within reach."

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